

23 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. HUGE NEW BIODEFENSE LAB IS DEDICATED AT FORT DETRICK: *"The Department of Homeland Security dedicated a massive biodefense laboratory in Frederick yesterday, moving toward the facility's opening despite questions raised about the risks of deadly pathogens to be studied there."*

2. CHINA TO GET U.S. TRAINING ON HANDLING OUTBREAKS: *"The United States is expanding a training program for Chinese health officials to include communications to promote transparency during disease outbreaks, the director of the U.S. Center for Disease Control said on Thursday."*

3. UK URGED TO STUDY EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS: *"The vice-chair of the All-Party Cancer Group is renewing his call on the British government to undertake new scientific studies into the effects of nuclear tests carried out by Britain over 50 years ago."*

4. UTAH MAN WHO KNEW ABOUT COUSIN'S RICIN GETS PROBATION: *"A federal judge sentenced a Utah man on Wednesday to two years of probation after he failed to report his cousin for producing the deadly toxin ricin."*

5. STOPPING A NUCLEAR TEHRAN: *"It is likely that the first and most pressing national security issue the next president will face is the growing prospect of a nuclear-weapons-capable Iran."*

6. ARMY UNIT GROWING TO COMBAT WMD: *"An Army unit originally formed to counter weapons of mass destruction in the United States now has more than 6,000 members and will continue to grow, said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Snow."*

CB Daily Report

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HUGE NEW BIODEFENSE LAB IS DEDICATED AT FORT DETRICK

HSToday

October 23, 2008

"The Department of Homeland Security dedicated a massive biodefense laboratory in Frederick yesterday, moving toward the facility's opening despite questions raised about the risks of deadly pathogens to be studied there.

When the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center at Fort Detrick is fully operational in March, about 150 scientists in the lab will be tasked with protecting the country from a bioterrorist attack through prevention or containment. Another goal is to allow investigators to fingerprint biological agents such as viruses and bacteria, quickly tracing their source and catching the offender."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/5725/189/>

[Return to Top](#)

CHINA TO GET U.S. TRAINING ON HANDLING OUTBREAKS

By Lucy Hornby

Reuters

October 23, 2008

"The United States is expanding a training program for Chinese health officials to include communications to promote transparency during disease outbreaks, the director of the U.S. Center for Disease Control said on Thursday."

"The United States has trained dozens of Chinese 'disease detectives,' and will now add a program to train officials who would communicate with the public, to improve transparency and accuracy of information, Julie Gerberding [CDC Director] told reporters."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE49M3WD20081023>

[Return to Top](#)

UK URGED TO STUDY EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS

IRNA [Islamic Republic News Agency]

October 21, 2008

"The vice-chair of the All-Party Cancer Group is renewing his call on the British government to undertake new scientific studies into the effects of nuclear tests carried out by Britain over 50 years ago.

Conservative MP John Baron said he has written to Defense Minister Derek Twigg calling on him not to backtrack on a pledge given at a meeting in March to replicate a New Zealand study on Nuclear Test Veterans in this country.

Baron is also raising the case again in a parliamentary debate on Wednesday to honor its promise and work with affected British veterans to create a new framework for hearing claims for compensation.

Between 1952 and 1967, the UK carried out a number of atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons in the Pacific Ocean and at Maralinga, Australia, involving over 20,000 servicemen."

The full article can be found at: <http://www1.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu-239/0810213982181512.htm>

[Return to Top](#)

UTAH MAN WHO KNEW ABOUT COUSIN'S RICIN GETS PROBATION

CNN

October 23, 2008

"A federal judge sentenced a Utah man on Wednesday to two years of probation after he failed to report his cousin for producing the deadly toxin ricin.

Thomas Tholen, 54, pleaded guilty in August to concealing his knowledge of the toxin from authorities. In addition to the probation, U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell imposed a \$500 fine, said Melodie Rydalch, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Salt Lake City.

Roger Von Bergendorff, Tholen's cousin, pleaded guilty in August to charges of possession of a biological toxin and possession of unregistered firearms. The plea came six months after Bergendorff was hospitalized with symptoms of ricin poisoning."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/10/23/ricin.probation/>

[Return to Top](#)

STOPPING A NUCLEAR TEHRAN

By Daniel R. Coats [former Republican senator from Indiana] and Charles S. Robb [former Democratic senator from Virginia]

The WashingtonPost.com

October 23, 2008

"It is likely that the first and most pressing national security issue the next president will face is the growing prospect of a nuclear-weapons-capable Iran. After co-chairing a recently concluded, high-level task force on Iranian nuclear development, we have come to believe that five principles must serve as the foundation of any reasonable, bipartisan and comprehensive Iranian policy.

First, an Islamic Republic of Iran with nuclear weapons capability would be strategically untenable."

"Second, we believe the only acceptable end state is the complete cessation of enrichment activities inside Iran. We foresee no combination of international inspections or co-ownership of enrichment facilities that would provide sufficient assurances that Iran is not producing weapons-grade fissile material."

"Third, while a diplomatic resolution is still possible, it can succeed only if we negotiate from a position of strength."

"Fourth, so that Israel does not feel compelled to take unilateral action, the next president

must credibly convince Jerusalem that the United States will not allow Iran to achieve nuclear weapons capability.

Fifth, while military action against Iran is feasible, it must remain an option of last resort."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/22/AR2008102203005.html>

[Return to Top](#)

ARMY UNIT GROWING TO COMBAT WMD

Defence Talk.com

October 23, 2008

"An Army unit originally formed to counter weapons of mass destruction in the United States now has more than 6,000 members and will continue to grow, said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Snow.

Snow's 20th Support Command responds to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive threats both in the homeland and overseas. He assumed command of the unique organization about three months ago."

"Formed in 2004, the 20th out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., began expanding its capabilities in 2006 to enable it to serve as a joint task force capable of rapid deployment to command and control WMD elimination and site-exploitation missions."

"The command has its roots in the Soldier Biochemical Command which was an Army Materiel Command organization that evolved into the Guardian Brigade. The 20th reached its first milestone to become an Army expeditionary unit for combating WMD and CBRNE threats and for the defeat of all types of IEDs.

The command consists of the 71st Ordnance Group (EOD) out of Fort Carson, Colo., the 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD) at Fort Campbell, Ky., the 48th Chemical Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas and the CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md."

The full article can be found at: http://www.defencetalk.com/news/publish/army/Army_unit_growing_to_combat_WMD110016634.php

[Return to Top](#)

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